



**JOHN
BURTON**
ADVOCATES FOR YOUTH

www.jbaforyouth.org

BEYOND THE SAFETY NET

Promoting Post-Secondary Educational
Achievement Among Youth in the Era of
Extended Foster Care

February 6, 2018



Today's Presenters

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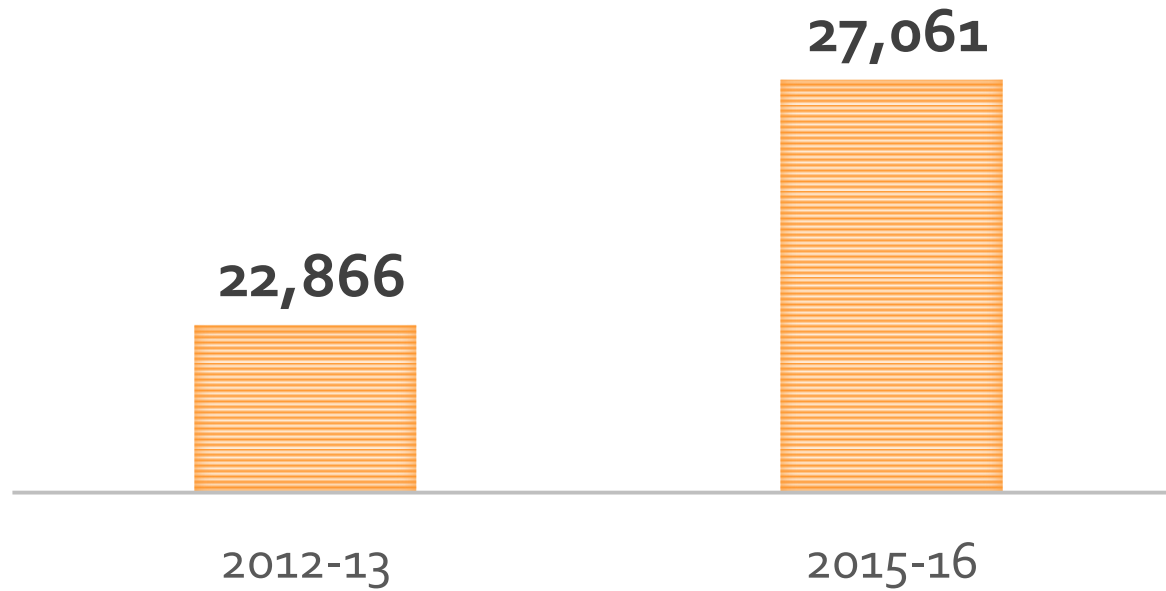
First Place for Youth

Emily Tousley

*Los Medanos College
Student & Participant at
First Place for Youth*

Extended Foster Care Changed the Landscape for Foster Youth & Post-Secondary Education

OF CURRENT & FORMER
FOSTER YOUTH ENROLLED IN
COMMUNITY COLLEGE¹



Youth who remain in Extended Foster Care are more likely to be enrolled in college, more likely to be enrolled full-time and more likely to receive financial aid than youth who exit at 18.²

¹ Data retrieved from Cal-PASS Plus foster youth data dashboard system. <https://www.calpassplus.org/>

² California Youth Transitions to Adulthood Study (CalYOUTH): Conditions of Youth at Age 19. http://www.chapinhall.org/sites/default/files/CY_YT_R_E0516.pdf

While these are positive early indications, important questions remain:

- Is remaining in foster care “enough” to improve college outcomes, or is it necessary to change the practice of providers serving the population to increase their emphasis on college enrollment and retention?
- What are providers serving transition-age current and former foster youth currently doing to support college enrollment and retention?
- What additional “core practices” can be added to promote college enrollment and retention?
- What barriers are preventing providers from implementing these practices?

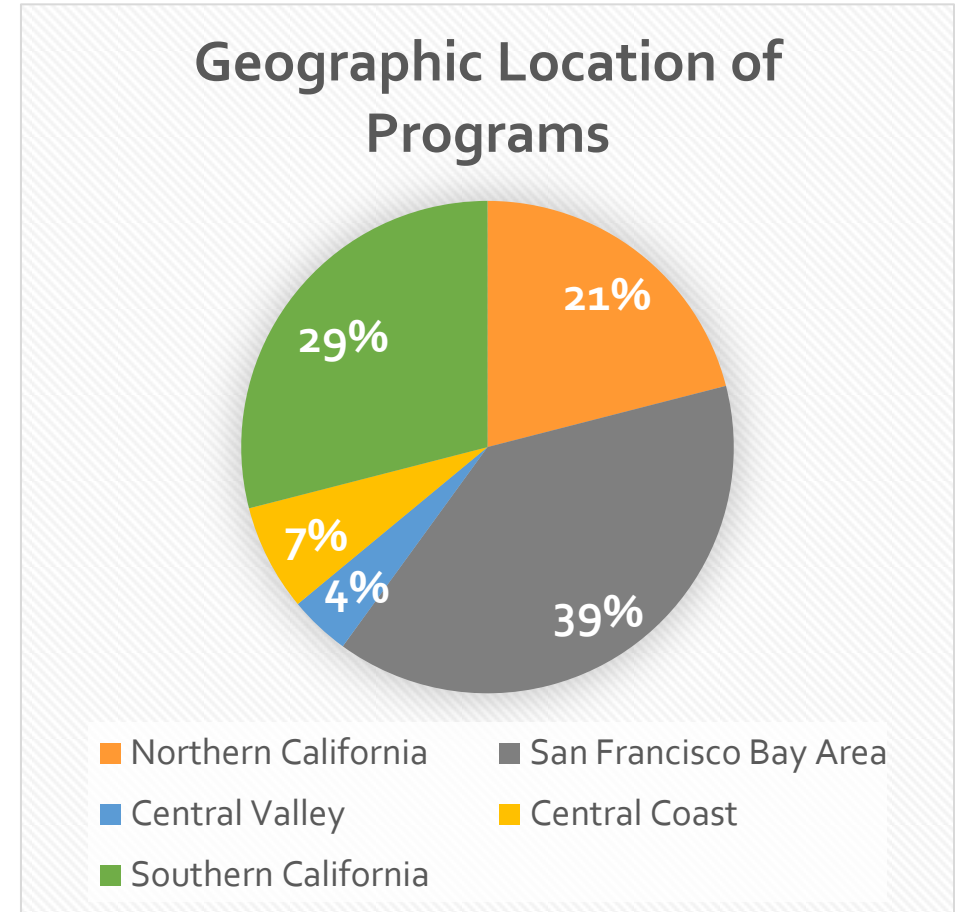
Pilot Project: Post-Secondary Education Training Series

GOAL: Increase the capacity of transitional housing programs to help foster youth enroll and persist in college, which includes career and technical training programs offered at community colleges.

Who participated in the pilot?

28 THP+FC and THP-Plus providers collectively serving 757 youth across 20 counties.

Service Category	Provide THP+FC Only	Provide THP-Plus Only	Provide Both Programs
# of programs in pilot	5	6	17



Where We Started: College Enrollment Rates at Baseline

	Total # of Youth	Youth with HS Diploma or GED		Youth Enrolled or Completed College	% of Youth Enrolled or Completed College
	#	#	%	#	%
THP-Plus	435	381	87.5	188	43.2
THP+FC	322	267	82.9	109	33.9
All Programs	757	648	85.6	297	39.2

As of September 30, 2016

What was provided?

Cohort-based learning community:

Monthly web-based training

Individual & small-group technical assistance

In-person convening

Access to financial assistance for youth participants enrolled in school

Each program set goals at the beginning of the project and worked to adopt practices from a **Core Practice Model**.

Learn More

BEYOND THE SAFETY NET: Preliminary Findings from a Pilot Project to Transform Housing Providers into College Success Programs

Posted on JBAY website:

<http://www.jbaforyouth.org/research-reports/>

BEYOND THE SAFETY NET:

Preliminary Findings from a Pilot Project to Transform
Housing Providers into College Success Programs

August 2017



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What Should a Core Practice Model to Support Youth to & through College Include?

Write your ideas BIG & BRIEF on post-its

Core Practice Model



Provide intensive, academic-focused **case management/coaching**



Ensure youth are accessing tutoring and other **academic support** to meet their individual needs



Establish a close working relationship with all local **campus support programs**



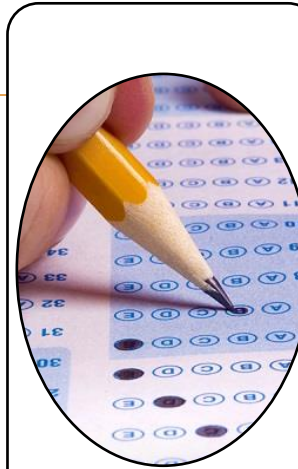
Ensure all youth complete the FAFSA & **financial aid** process from start to finish, & maintain their aid



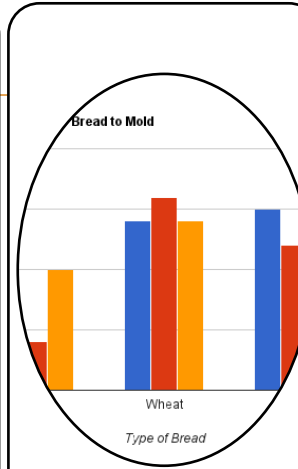
Develop a **college-going culture** in your program



Enable youth to be students with as **little work obligation** as possible



Assist youth with avoiding unnecessary placement in **remediation** and accessing best options for addressing remediation needs



Collect **data** on PSE outcomes of your youth participants & use that data to inform service provision

<http://www.jbaforyouth.org/core-practice-model-btsn/>

Two-Year Initiative: Beyond the Safety Net

GOAL: Increase the capacity of housing programs to help current & former foster youth & homeless youth enroll and persist in college, which includes career and technical training programs offered at community colleges.

<http://www.jbaforyouth.org/btsn/>

Funded by:



What does the two-year initiative consist of?

In-person convenings that promote learning & peer sharing

Individualized & small group support with achieving the goals established by your program

Practice tools tailored to meet the needs of programs serving current and former transition-aged foster youth & homeless youth

Opportunities for networking & collaboration with the post-secondary educational sector

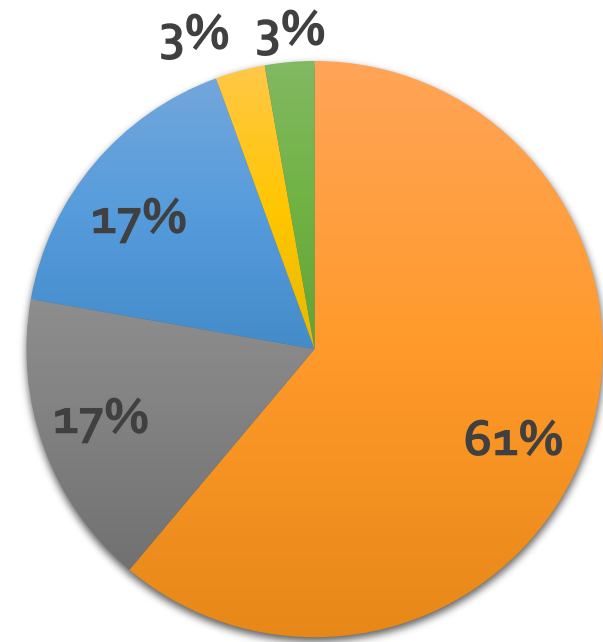
Free access to an exciting new evidence-based technological tool, Persistence Plus

Who is participating in the Beyond the Safety Net Initiative?

36 THP+FC, THP-Plus & homeless youth providers collectively serving over 1,600 youth across 17 counties.

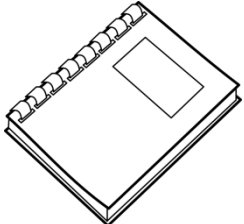
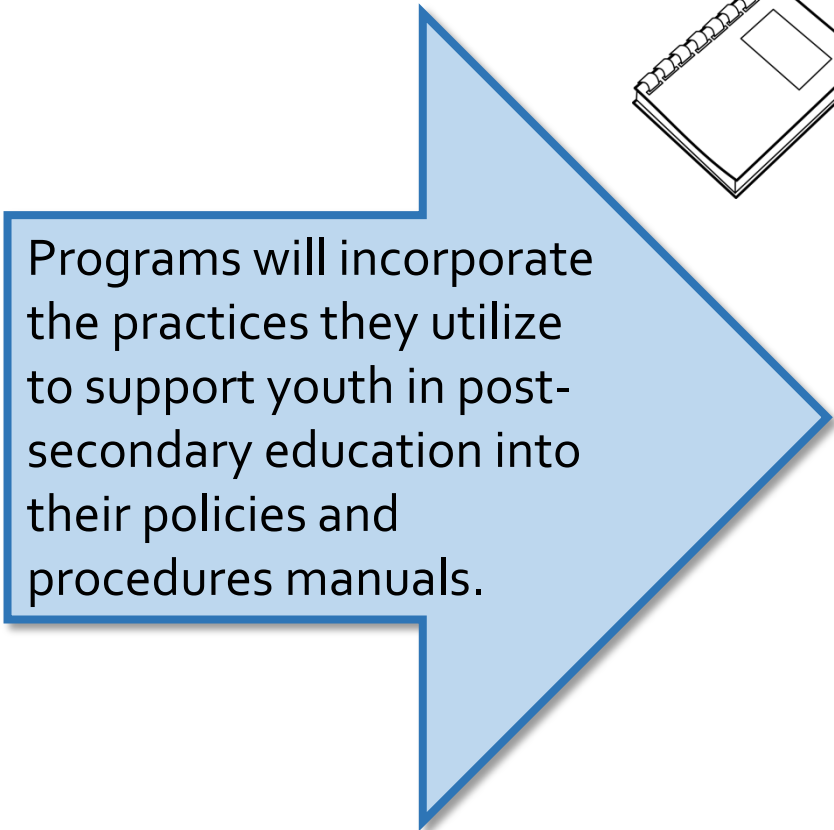
Service Category	Provide THP+FC	Provide THP-Plus	Provide Homeless Youth Housing
# of programs in BTSN Initiative	26	23	9

Regional Breakdown


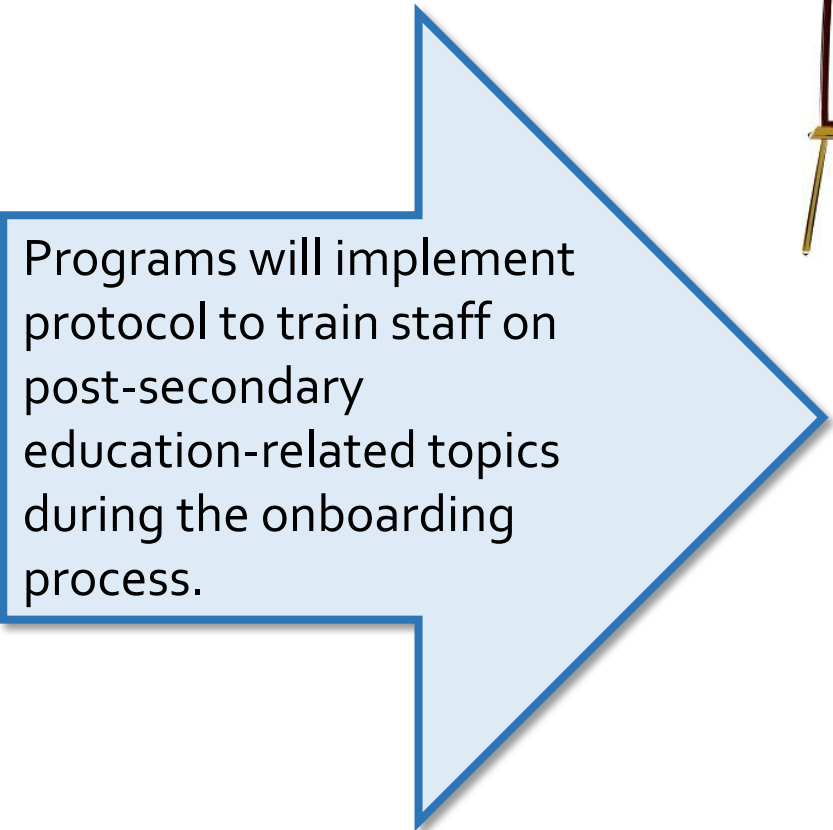


■ Southern ■ Bay Area ■ Northern
■ Central Coast ■ Central Valley

What We're Working Towards



Programs will incorporate the practices they utilize to support youth in post-secondary education into their policies and procedures manuals.



Programs will implement protocol to train staff on post-secondary education-related topics during the onboarding process.

What We're Working Towards



Programs will develop a deep understanding of the college matriculation process.



Programs will be informed about which colleges employ multiple measures and alternative strategies to address remediation needs.

What We're Working Towards

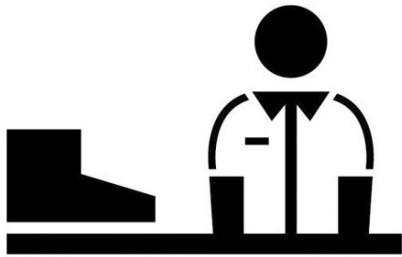


Programs will adopt a case management model that is academic-focused and hands-on.

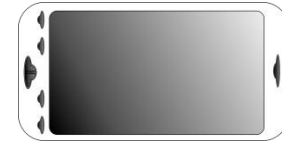


Programs will establish and/or further develop their relationships with their local campus support programs.

What We're Working Towards



Programs will assess their work requirement to determine its impact on college enrollment and retention.



Programs will improve the use of technology to ease communication with campuses and promote college retention.

First Place for Youth

- What does First Place for Youth do to support youth to and through college?
- What did First Place for Youth add or change over the course of the pilot?
- What are some of First Place for Youth's goals for the two-year initiative?
- How have these practices made a difference for youth in the program?



Questions?
